AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reproducing an optical disc, comprising the steps of:

a) detecting, for a predetermined period of time, a level of a tracking error signal outputted when the optical disc is driven;

b) comparing the level of the detected tracking error signal with a predetermined reference level;

c) setting that a current focus point of an objective lens for the optical disc is optimized without adjusting a focus bias of the objective lens, if the comparing step (b) indicates that the level of the detected tracking error signal is not lower than the predetermined reference level;

~~b~~d) carrying out an operation of adjusting ~~a~~ the focus bias of ~~an~~ the objective lens arranged within an optical pickup on the basis of the detected level of the tracking error signal, if the comparing step (b) indicates that the level of the detected tracking error signal is lower than the predetermined reference level; and

~~c~~e) setting a focus bias adjustment value as an optimum focus bias value at a time when the detected level of the tracking error signal is maximized after performing the step (d).

2. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step (a) is carried out in a focusing-on state and a tracking-~~on~~ off state.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein in the step (~~c~~e), the focus bias adjustment value is set as "0", if the level of the tracking error signal detected at the step (a) is higher than ~~a~~ the predetermined reference level.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step (~~b~~d) comprises the step of:

if the detected level of the tracking error signal is lower than ~~a~~ the level of ~~a~~ the tracking error signal detected before the operation of adjusting the focus bias, carrying out an operation of inversely adjusting the focus bias until the detected level of the tracking error signal does not increase further.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

~~d~~f) if the operation of adjusting the focus bias is completed, carrying out a playback operation in a focusing-on state and a tracking-on state on the basis of the set focus bias adjustment value.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein the step (~~d~~f) further comprises the step of:

if the operation of adjusting the focus bias is completed, carrying out a tracking balance adjustment operation.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the operation of adjusting the focus bias at the step (~~b~~d) is carried out on the basis of ~~a~~ the focus bias adjustment value per step stored in a memory.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(~~e~~g) storing, in a memory, the set focus bias adjustment value as the optimum focus bias value.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step (~~b~~d) comprises the step of:

if the detected level of the tracking error signal is lower than ~~a~~ the predetermined reference level, increasing a current focus drive voltage incrementally per step until the level of the tracking error signal reaches a maximum level.

11. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the maximum level is reached when the level of the tracking error signal does not increase further.

12. (Currently Amended) A device for reproducing an optical disc, comprising:

means for detecting, for a predetermined period of time, a level of a tracking error signal outputted when the optical disc is driven;

means for comparing the level of the detected tracking error signal with a predetermined reference level;

means for setting that a current focus point of an objective lens for the optical disc is optimized without adjusting a focus bias of the objective lens, if the comparing means indicates that the level of the detected tracking error signal is not lower than the predetermined reference level;

means for carrying out an operation of adjusting ~~a~~ the focus bias of ~~an~~ the objective lens arranged within an optical pickup on the basis of the detected level of the tracking error signal, if the comparing means indicates that the level of the detected tracking error signal is lower than the predetermined reference level; and

means for setting a focus bias adjustment value as an optimum focus bias value at a time when the detected level of the tracking error signal is maximized after the carrying means carries out the operation of adjusting the focus bias.

13. (Currently Amended) The device as set forth in claim 12, wherein the means for detecting ~~a~~ the level of ~~a~~ the tracking error signal carries out the detecting in a focusing-on state and a tracking-~~on~~ off state.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The device as set forth in claim 12, wherein the focus bias adjustment value is set as "0", if the level of the tracking error signal detected is higher than ~~a~~ the predetermined reference level.

16. (Currently Amended) The device as set forth in claim 12, wherein if the detected level of the tracking error signal is lower than ~~a~~ the level of ~~a~~ the tracking error signal detected

before the operation of adjusting the focus bias, the means for carrying out the~~an~~ operation of adjusting ~~a~~ the focus bias of ~~an~~ the objective lens carries out an operation of inversely adjusting the focus bias until the detected level of the tracking error signal does not increase further.

17. (Original) The device as set forth in claim 12, further comprising:

if the operation of adjusting the focus bias is completed, fourth means for carrying out a playback operation in a focusing-on state and a tracking-on state on the basis of the set focus bias adjustment value.

18. (Original) The device as set forth in claim 17, wherein if the operation of adjusting the focus bias is completed, the fourth means carries out a tracking balance adjustment operation.

19. (Currently Amended) The device as set forth in claim 12, wherein the means for carrying out ~~an~~ the operation of adjusting ~~a~~ the focus bias of ~~an~~ the objective lens carries out the operation of adjusting the focus bias on the basis of ~~a~~ the focus bias adjustment value per step stored in a memory.

20. (Original) The device as set forth in claim 12, further comprising:

a memory to store therein the set focus bias adjustment value as the optimum focus bias value.

21. (Currently Amended) The device as set forth in claim 12, wherein if the detected level of the tracking error signal is lower than ~~a~~ the predetermined reference level, the means

for carrying out ~~an~~ the operation of adjusting ~~a~~ the focus bias of ~~an~~ the objective lens increases a current focus drive voltage incrementally per step until the level of the tracking error signal reaches a maximum level.

22. (Original) The device as set forth in claim 21, wherein the maximum level is reached when the level of the tracking error signal does not increase further.